

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Phillip Jimmie Miller,)	Civil Action No. 2:14-2754-MGL
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	<u>ORDER</u>
)	
Joseph McFadden, <i>Warden of Lieber</i>)	
<i>Correctional Institution,</i>)	
)	
Respondent.)	

Petitioner Phillip Jimmie Miller, (“Petitioner”), a represented state prisoner, filed the instant petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. (ECF No. 1). In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Civil Rule 73.02(B)(2)(c), D.S.C., this matter was referred to United States Magistrate Judge Mary Gordon Baker for review of post-trial petitions for relief and a Report and Recommendation (“Report”).

On August 3, 2015, the Magistrate Judge issued a Report, (ECF No. 24), recommending that Respondent’s Motion for Summary Judgment, (ECF No. 14), be granted and that the petition be dismissed with prejudice. Petitioner filed a timely Objection to the Report, (ECF No. 25), and the matter is now ripe for review by this Court.

The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to the Court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the Court. *See Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261 (1976). The Court is charged with making a *de novo* determination of any portion of the Report of the Magistrate Judge to which a specific objection is made. The Court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the recommendation made by the Magistrate Judge or recommit the matter to the Magistrate Judge with instructions. *See* 28

U.S.C. § 636(b). In the absence of a timely filed Objection, a district court need not conduct a *de novo* review, but instead must “only satisfy itself that there is no clear error on the face of the record in order to accept the recommendation.” *Diamond v. Colonial Life & Acc. Ins. Co.*, 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005).

In light of the standards set forth above, the Court has reviewed, *de novo*, the entire record in this case, including, in particular, the Magistrate Judge’s Report and the Petitioner’s Objection. The Court has considered each of the Petitioner’s several objections to the Report and finds that none of them meaningfully counter the thorough and reasoned conclusions of the Magistrate Judge. The Court, like the Magistrate Judge, is not persuaded that Petitioner’s “poor math skills,” even if documented and present since childhood, amount to the type of “extraordinary circumstances” capable of justifying an equitable tolling of the strict one year statute of limitations governing habeas petitions. Nor does the Court find any error in the Magistrate Judge’s analysis of and application of McQuiggan v. Perkins, 133 S Ct. 1924 (2013), and Schlup v. Delo, 513 U.S. 298 (1995), to Petitioner’s case and the conclusion that Petitioner has failed to make a sufficient showing of “actual innocence” to satisfy the rigorous standards outlined in those cases. Nor do any of Petitioner’s objections undermine the Magistrate Judge’s careful analysis and findings related to the procedural default of certain of Petitioner’s grounds, Petitioner’s non-prevailing merits claims of jury misconduct, insufficient evidence and trial court error, or the determination that Petitioner has failed to show that his allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel satisfy the two-prong standard of *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668 (1984).

For the forgoing reasons, the Court concurs with the reasoning of the Magistrate Judge and adopts the Report and incorporates it herein by reference, (ECF No. 24), overruling Petitioner’s

Objection. (ECF No. 25). Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment, (ECF No. 14), is **GRANTED** and the petition is **DISMISSED** with prejudice.

Certificate of Appealability

The governing law provides that:

(2) A certificate of appealability may issue . . . only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

(3) The certificate of appealability . . . shall indicate which specific issue or issues satisfy the showing required by paragraph (2).

28 U.S.C. § 2253©. A prisoner satisfies the standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find this court's assessment of his constitutional claims debatable or wrong and that any dispositive procedural ruling by the district court is likewise debatable. *See Miller–El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336, 123 S.Ct. 1029, 154 L.Ed.2d 931 (2003); *Rose v. Lee*, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir.2001). In this case, the legal standard for the issuance of a certificate of appealability has not been met. Therefore, a certificate of appealability is **DENIED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Mary G. Lewis
United States District Judge

August 25, 2015
Columbia, South Carolina